

REMARKS

The subject matter of claim 19 was added to claims 18 and 33.

Claims 18 and 33 therefore now define that a line image of the scene of extended dynamic range is produced and that the filter means comprise stripes orientated so that the lines of the stripes are inclined to lines of the image.

The Examiner had objected to claim 19 on the basis of Japanese Patent No. 02076481 to Kuribayashi . However, the wording of claim 19, and therefore the wording of amended claims 18 and 33, requires “stripes inclined to the lines of the image”.

Kuribayashi, however, discloses a grid of window shaped elements which cover the surface of an image pickup device. Although the grid has vertical and horizontal rows and columns, applicant respectfully submits that it can not be said to comprise stripes, as this would be understood to mean alternating lines of color-texture, pattern and so on.

Furthermore, the stripes of claims 18 and 33 are “inclined” to the lines of the image. Inclined is understood to mean at “an angle to the vertical or horizontal”. Therefore, the Examiner’s assertion that the columns of window shaped elements comprise “inclined stripes” does not seem to give the wording of the claims the correct interpretation.

Applicant has enclosed printouts using an on-line dictionary which illustrate the every day meanings of the words “stripe” and “inclined” for reference. We submit that amended claims 18 and 33 are therefore novel over Kuribayashi.

The stripes in claims 18 and 33 are part of the filter means which allow the decoding means to produce a line image of extended dynamic range. There is, however, no indication of how the rows or columns themselves in Kuribayashi result in extended dynamic range. Instead,

individual window elements in the grid are activated to shield part of the sensor when the light intensity becomes too great. We therefore submit that amended claims 18 and 33 are also inventive over the prior art cited by the Examiner.

In order to address the Examiner's objections to the drawings, we enclose a new sheet 2 of the drawings with a corrected Fig. 9. The description was amended to incorporate the reference numeral 5 into the description relating to Fig. 6.

Enclosed is a copy of the documents cited in the International Search Report as well as Form PTO-1449 listing the references for consideration and entry into the file. The fee of \$180.00 is enclosed.

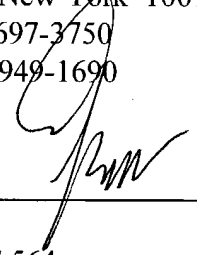
Petition is hereby made for a one-month extension of the period to respond to the outstanding Official Action to November 19, 2004. A check in the amount of \$110.00, as the Petition fee, is enclosed herewith. If there are any additional charges, or any overpayment, in connection with the filing of the amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such deficiency, or credit any such overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-1145.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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